



VOL. XVII.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 28, 1849.

NO. 26.



OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, OUR BROTHER MAN

### Prospects for the Wool Market.

We once more recur to this subject, for altho' the flocks in Maine have been wonderfully thin off, there are a few more left, and their owners feel as much interest in the question, "how is wool?" as ever.

The new monthly periodical started by T. C. Peters, in Buffalo, N. Y., entitled the "Wool Grower," promises to be a valuable aid to the wool-growing interest, and as the Editor is at the head of a large wool-depot, and of course directly connected with the wool trade, his statements may be relied upon, as one "having authority" in these matters at least.

The range of the Buffalo market during June he quotes as follows:

No. 1,	30 to 34 cents.
2,	27 to 32
3,	25 to 26
4,	23 to 24
5,	20 to 23

And he adds that wool ought not to be sold, and probably will not be, unless forced upon the market, at a price below the highest range, but if forced upon the market, it can be readily sold at the lowest quotations. These prices are for the opening market. It may not be clearly understood by some of our readers what is meant by Nos. 1, 2, &c.

Mr. Peters says his mode of sorting is this. The very coarsest common wool is No. 5.—There is scarcely a flock so common that its wool will not range at No. 4, which is the next best grade.

Full blooded Merino is the No. 1, while half and three-fourths will make more or less No. 2. One quarter and half make No. 3. Saxony wool and its grades rank above Merino and its grades. The farmer can therefore form a pretty accurate idea of the value of his wool from the foregoing figures.

The Editor advises wool growers to make their arrangements and calculations without any reference to any alterations of the tariff very soon. He thinks the balancing of parties at Washington, for or against a new tariff, such as ought not to lead the farmer to depend upon any important change, and the reasons which induce him to consider a rise in wool probable during the season, are based upon the state of affairs in Europe.

He remarks that "there are no old stocks on hand to be thrown upon our markets. On the contrary, their own markets were never so bare as at this moment."

"The war between Austria and Hungary, has been very disastrous to some of the finest wool growing sections of those countries, and by increasing consumers, and decreasing producers, the result must be that there will be nothing to export. Indeed, should this war continue any length of time, or become more general, it is not improbable that we shall become exporters of wool to such an extent as to sensibly affect the price at home." He also observes that if England is compelled to purchase her wool here, it is clear that our manufacturers will have little to fear from them, for the difference of transportation, time and other expenses, with the tariff, will more than neutralize any advantage her manufacturers may have over ours, by reason of the cheapness of labor and capital.

On the other hand, they must also consider that any advantages that may arise from the present commotions in Europe, are very precarious.—They may subside ere the year has expired, in which case markets will return to their former condition, or they may continue and settle down into a long and savage war, in which case what brings desolation to them may indirectly increase prices in our own country. It is not probable that wool-growing in the northern States will ever again be as profitable as it has been in years past; yet it may become a fair business once more.

### Smoking Potatoes for the Rot.

The late Cultivator contains a communication from a correspondent under the signature of O. P. K., in Wisconsin, recommending smoking potatoes after they are dug, in order to prevent the rot.

He quotes, as his authority, the experiments of one of his neighbors, who, after having dug his potatoes and placed them in an out door cellar, built a smoke so that it would circulate through the pile, and continued it for eight or ten days, when the parts that had begun to rot, dried up, and the remainder continued sound. This remedy was discovered accidentally, by the building of a fire in an unfinished cellar where potatoes were placed. The fire was built to prevent their freezing, when it was found it also prevented the continuance of their rotting.

In addition to this mode of smoking, we will record another:

Mr. Talbot, Representative from Machias, informs us that a neighbor of his has adopted the plan of smoking his potato fields in order to prevent the rot from striking them at all. Last year he tried the experiment in the latter part of the season, or about the time the rot usually commences. He built little fires of brush around the borders around among the stalks. The success was such as to induce him to prepare for carrying on the smoking of his field more thoroughly this year. We mention this now in order that others may try the experiment also, if they wish.

If Mr. Teichmeyer's theory be true, that the rot is nothing but a fungus that takes root in the potato, and flourishes by producing its decay—smoking may be an excellent remedy, as it will cause the death of the fungi, and thereby save the potato.

It is no matter, however, whether this theory be true or not, so far as the mere practical result

be concerned. If smoking the tops of the plants, after the manner of the Machias farmer, protects the crop from this insidious disease, by all means give them a thorough smoking. If smoking them in the cellar stops the progress of the rot which has begun, or prevents its commencement, by all means smoke them, till they become as grimy as a log of fawn. It is only by such experiments that we can ascertain facts, and facts when ascertained will lead us to a knowledge of causes.

When the true cause is known, it will be much easier to counteract the disease.

### New Varieties of Apples.

Every season is developing new varieties of fruits, which are valuable. The apple and pear in New England do well, and taking everything into consideration, are as successfully raised in this (New England) section of the Union as in any similar place of the nation.

Hovey, in his last number of the Magazine of Horticulture, figures and describes three varieties, two of them not known out of the vicinity of their origin. These are the "Sutton Beauty," which is a winter apple that originated in Sutton, Mass., which is represented to be a very handsome and prolific apple, bearing, like the Baldwin, in alternate years very bountifully. The other is called the Cogswell apple, brought into notice by John Kenrick, Esq., a nurseryman and orchardist of Newton, Mass. He says it came from Attleboro'. He describes it as being a straight grower, and as abundant a bearer as any apple that he is acquainted with.

He says they are an early winter fruit, in use from October to January, but that he has kept them till June.

He considers them, for profit, second to very few apples with which he is acquainted. They have been known to him for about fourteen years. They are probably of comparatively recent origin, as individuals who were formerly residents of Attleboro', and well acquainted with most varieties of apples raised in that town, have no recollection of them, by that name at least.

### Maine dependent on other States for Bread.

It is an undisputed fact that the people of Maine are in a great measure dependent upon other States for the breadstuffs we use. Not only is this true of the commercial and manufacturing portion of our population, but it is also true of many if not the most of our farmers. Under this state of things there is a constant drain of money which is sent abroad to purchase flour for our own consumption. There is not the usual demand for lumber, and but little money, comparatively, is brought among us from that source. The consequence is, business generally is dull and money is scarce. What little money we receive for our stock, wool or manufactures, goes almost immediately out of the State for bread.

When we could raise from two to four hundred bushels of potatoes to the acre, and sell them at 25 or 30 cents per bushel in the market towns, it was thought that the farmers could do better to raise potatoes and purchase their flour. But now we can plant no more do we plant the potato than the wheat crop. The change that has taken place in the prospects of the farmer, seems to direct us once more to make the attempt to raise our own bread. Unless we succeed in some measure in this, we do not see but the balance of trade will continue to be against us.

We do not expect that, under the present condition of our agriculture, the farmers will be able to supply the whole population of the State with bread. But may not at least, from the productions of their farms, furnish a supply of breadstuffs equal to the wants of their own families? We do not see how they can become truly independent and prosperous until they do this.

And while we would not ask them to deprive themselves of any of the essentials of a good living—of any article necessary to health and comfort, we would ask them if they may not economize a little by using less wheat flour and substituting for it other articles that can be more easily raised among us? From the observations of those who have travelled extensively in this country and also in foreign countries, we are of the opinion that more flour is used in New-England, and especially in Maine, according to its population, than in any other country. And we are also of the opinion that we should be the gainers, not only in pocket but in health, if a change should be effected in the manner of living, and instead of using so much superfine flour, we should use more of some other articles of diet.

In most sections of the State we may raise some wheat. And with this, even if it be but little, and our corn, rye, barley, buckwheat and all approved articles of food, we think our farmers might live pretty well, and independent of the agricultural productions of other States. We are greatly impoverished by the prevailing practice of "going to New-York to mill." We do not consider it altogether necessary; and an enlightened regard for the interest of our own State calls loudly for a reform in this particular. We are credibly informed that the western wheat growers, who raise each five hundred or one thousand bushels annually, use less flour than our farmers in Maine, who do not perhaps raise ten bushels each.

**BOTTLE INSECTS.** Dear Sir: You cannot too strongly recommend to your readers the advantages of hanging bottles, filled with a mixture of sweetened water and vinegar, in their fruit trees, at this season of the year. If wide-mouthed bottles can be had, it is all the better. I succeeded, in this way, in keeping down the insects surprisingly on my own grounds last season.—catching them so fast, that I was obliged to empty the bottles weekly. The bottles should only be filled half full of the liquid. A remedy.

New Haven, May 8, 1849. [Hort. Mag.]

**CURE FOR POOL IN THE FOOT.** Having a cow that had been troubled with this disease for a long time, and after applying numerous remedies without any apparent success, the foot becoming very painful, I applied for three successive days, a strong solution of copperas once in each day, and which I applied for a few days strong pork brine, and a complete cure was effected.

[Albany Cultivator.] F. E. Stow.

### Ground Plaster on Corn.

It is said that experience is the best teacher, when we will learn in any other way, and a dear one to me, as the following remarks will show. In the spring of 1847, I prepared the ground and planted about twelve acres of corn, on upland, of a gravelly soil. At the breaking up it had every appearance, with a favorable season, of producing a fine crop. I tended it with the greatest care. At the last hoeing it still bid fair to produce a medium quantity to the acre; but notwithstanding its fine growth at this time, I could discover that the leaves were marked alternately with yellow and black streaks. My neighbors said that the plaster, this I did not believe, and at the time of its setting for corn, so numerous were the sets, that I laughed at them for their advice; but at the time of harvesting, the tables were turned. For, instead of harvesting a medium crop, it came short of half of that quantity. I was surprised, the result being so very different from what I had anticipated; some entire hills, and almost all the others, to a greater or less extent, showed sets, but no ears; and those that showed ears were most of them of diminutive size. This result, as I will show, was occasioned from the want of about five cwt. of plaster, about \$1.25 cts. worth on the entire lot; but rather than show my ignorance, which I did by so doing, I ascribed the failure to the season; and I impudently ignorance to my neighbors, rather than take it upon myself.

In the spring of 1848, I prepared a field adjoining the aforementioned one, of about equal size and soil similar, except not so good, it being more worn by cultivation. This field I treated similarly to the other so far as ploughing and weeding was concerned. Directly after the corn was up I obtained 250 lbs. of plaster, being that was left over from the last year, and put it on as far as it would go, leaving one row through the middle of the field as an experiment. Unfortunately the plaster went over but a little more than half of the field, and I concluded to plaster the rest after the last hoeing. At the first hoeing I could discover no difference in the size of the plastered and the unplastered, while the other was yellow, so much so, that as far as the corn could be seen, this difference was perceptible. At the second hoeing, the corn maintained the same contrast, except the plastered part, which was twice the size of the other. At the last hoeing, such was the difference, the unplastered part of the corn was not more than one-third the size of the other. The plaster was then supplied to the remainder of the field, with the exception of one row. At the time of harvesting, the part first plastered was ripe at the usual time, while the other continued green for two or three weeks afterwards, and many masses of corn for boiling were taken from this part of the field for the two or three weeks that it continued green. The result was, that as far as the corn could be seen, this difference was perceptible. At the second hoeing, the corn maintained the same contrast, except the plastered part, which was twice the size of the other. At the last hoeing, such was the difference, the unplastered part of the corn was not more than one-third the size of the other. The plaster was then supplied to the remainder of the field, with the exception of one row. 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R. EATON, Proprietor. E. HOLMES, Editor.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 28, 1849.

## Death of Ex-President Polk.

JAMES KNOX POLK, the eleventh President of the United States, finished his earthly career, at his residence, near Nashville, Tennessee, on Friday night, the 15th instant, after a brief illness, in the 54th year of his age.

President Polk was born in Mecklenburg county, N. C., Nov. 2d, 1795. His ancestors are believed to have emigrated to this country from the north of Ireland some time before the revolution. He was the eldest of ten children. In 1815 he entered the University of North Carolina, where in due time he graduated with distinguished honor. In 1819, he commenced the study of law with Hon. Felix Grundy, of Tennessee, and in 1820, he was admitted to practice. In 1825, after having occupied a seat in the State Legislature, he was elected to the Congress of the United States. In 1833, and again in 1837, he was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. He held the office of Governor of Tennessee for two years, commencing in 1839. In 1844 he was elected to the Presidency.

It is not the time or the place for us to review the political career of the late chief magistrate. When the clamor of partisans has in a measure subsided, and their asperities have been softened by time, the community will be prepared to weigh the public measures of his administration with more impartiality and justice. His private character is represented by those who knew him best as irreproachable. All unite in paying him a merited tribute to his many virtues. "He has descended from a position than which none is loftier on earth, to lie on the same level with the obscurest victim of death. A few months since he was the chief of a mighty nation, and his word echoed through the world—to-day he is a commoner with the slumbering, pulseless millions of the tomb. Yesterday princes and emperors were scarce his equals; to-day corruption and the worm are his brother and sister. Alas, what is man, in his best, his loftiest condition—what are honor, station, influence, fame, and vanity and the dream of an hour!"

## The American Art Union.

We have several times called the attention of our readers to the American Art Union, and we would again recur to the subject. To those who are unacquainted with the principles of the association, we would briefly say that it is an association of individuals who engage to pay in a certain sum per annum for the purpose of encouraging the painter, both portrait and landscape, of our country, and also the engraver, whose skill is called in requisition to transfer the designs of the artist from the canvass to the plate, whereby they may be multiplied without number, and sent abroad to all who have a taste for such works. The subscription for a year is five dollars. As it is a voluntary thing with you, to become a member or not, you may continue your subscription from year to year, or discontinue when you please. Every year, a large and splendid engraving is made for the Union, from some painting selected by a committee, and every one who has subscribed is entitled to a copy. Of this he is sure; and oftentimes this engraving is worth the subscription for the year. But this is not all. What funds remain over and above the expense of engraving, and such incidental expenses as necessarily occur in transacting the business, as these, however, are not sufficient to allow each subscriber a painting, what are purchased are put into a lottery, and drawn among the members. Thus, by becoming a member, you are sure of an engraving, and may possibly also draw an elegant painting.

In this way, two objects are joined. First, money is raised to purchase the works of artists and thereby encouragement is given them; many of whom are in need of such encouragement, and well worthy of it. Second, these works are scattered abroad to different sections of the country, thus carrying, wherever they go, indubitable proofs of the genius of our countrymen, and mayhap be instrumental in arousing in others a taste for such things, and spreading abroad the essential elements of a refinement found only among a people who have good sense and judgment to appreciate genius of the kind, and generosity and expansion of mind sufficient to foster and encourage such genius and talent wherever they can find it. As we said before, it is a voluntary act. We would not urge any one to become a member who cannot afford the tax. On the other hand we would urge, and strenuously urge, too, the many who are able, to contribute to their means for the promotion of the objects of the Union. All people, from the most rustic and uncultivated tribes, to the most enlightened and civilized, are delighted with the true representations of nature by the pencil of the painter or the chisel of the sculptor; and some of the most graphic and enduring historical monuments of many nations now no more, consist in their paintings and sculptures which have outlived them, and without which their names and deeds would have been forgotten.

The same pleasure which excites the school boy in looking at the pictures in his primer, and prompts him to trace their resemblance to nature, continues through life, enlarged, ennobled and elevated as he comes to ripen years, and leading him to look with interest on higher and more consummate works of the artist who essays to place upon canvass the glowing, breathing imagery of nature's finest works. That nation which not only patronizes her artists, but only contributes to the means of progressive refinement and mental greatness, but also lays enduring foundations on which to erect the monuments of her history, by which she shall be known, respected and copied after, centuries and centuries hence. The individual, therefore, who subscribes to the Art Union is doing good to the present and to the future generations of his countrymen.

The American Art Union is located in New York. Benj. A. G. Fuller, Esq., is one of the Secretaries, and would cheerfully receive any subscriptions. Many of the citizens of this place have heretofore contributed, and some valuable paintings have been received by members here. We hope those who have the means will continue to do the handsome thing in this matter.

GREEN PEARL. We received samples of fine green pear, last week, on the 20th, from Mr. Alonzo Gault of Augusta, raised by him in his garden this season. We think Mr. Gault is a No. 1 on the pear list this year. Also from Mr. Wm. Bridge, on the 23d. We received fine samples of green pear from Mr. Jacob Nelson of Winthrop, on the 25th instant.

## Iron in Maine.

We believe all the iron works in Maine, and they are very few indeed, have suspended operations. So what iron we work up among us comes from abroad. We suppose the immediate cause of their suspension of operations is because of the demand in London, and the prices are small. At the same time, thousands and thousands of tons are coming daily across the Atlantic and of tons are coming daily across the Atlantic and of tons are coming daily across the Atlantic.

We are led to these remarks by seeing a passing notice of the iron works at Woodstock, in New Brunswick. They are doing a limited business, not having been long in operation. Now we have in the Aroostook region, contiguous to Woodstock, immense quantities of iron ore of the best quality. It slumbers there, untouched, like any other of the valuable mineral and geological resources of Maine. The time will probably come when it may be wrought, and wrought to such advantage that we shall be able to wipe off some old scores against some of the other States, by furnishing them with the best iron made from our own ores. It is well to know what resources we have, if we cannot make a beneficial use of them at the present moment. It makes us feel safe and strong to know that we have the wherewithal to do with, even if it may not be the best policy to use them now.

## Wind Mills.

The wind for a motive power is not so much used as before the application of steam, and the simplification of the Horse power machines. There are, however, many situations where the application of wind is of great utility, and a simple and effective apparatus is still a desideratum. We saw a model of a wind-mill, last winter, invented and made by Mr. Albion Nutting of this town, which we think would make a very effective one, if properly constructed of right proportions, while it was exceedingly simple in its details.

We do not know that he has done any thing more with it than to make a model, and test the principle on a small scale. We should like to see one of full size. We think it would work exceedingly well for pumping water in salt works, and for many other purposes where a strong power is needed, and there is no facility for using water power or steam power.

## Hydrographic Institute at Watford.

We some time since received a circular from Drs. Prescott and Farrar, of the Hydrographic Institute at Watford, or as some call it, the Water Cure establishment. From the announcement thus furnished us, we learn that the establishment is doing a good business. If strong and unshaken faith in the principles of Hydrography aided by a long life of observation and study of the sciences can ensure success, Dr. Prescott is bound to succeed. He may, like every other man sometime err in judgment, or be led away by a love of his profession and an enthusiasm in it, but for honesty and integrity in his calling, and an intense desire to benefit those entrusted to his care, we think the proprietors of that establishment need to none. Indeed, we should like to be among them this hot weather, and become amphibious until the fever of old Sol should become less, and the weather put the thermometer a little below searing.

## Small Pox in Augusta.

The undersigned, members of the board of health, have the pleasure to announce to the citizens of this and other towns, that the small pox, that scourge of our race, has concluded its engagement here, and taken its departure. No case is now known to exist in this town. The aggregate number has not exceeded ten, and with one exception (which resulted in death) the cases have been of a mild character, the most of its victims have suffered less from the disease, than many at a distance, from their fears. The efficient sanitary measures, promptly adopted by the Selectmen, confined the disease to circumscribed limits, arrested its progress, and removed every source of danger.

Notwithstanding the bugbear stories and exaggerated reports of Madame Rumor, of doubtful veracity, we do not hesitate to proclaim to the world, that Augusta, in its salubrity and freedom from disease, will compare favorably with the most favored of our Country.

JOHN MEANS.  
LUDWIG MEYER.  
EDWARD SMITH.  
W. F. HALLETT.  
CYRUS BAIGES.

June 26th, 1849.

WARM AND DRY WEATHER. We think we never knew warmer weather in the month of June than we had last week. On Friday, the warmest day of the season, the mercury in our office indicated a temperature of about 95 degrees for several hours in succession, while at the same time some of our neighbors were enjoying themselves as they could in a temperature several degrees higher. This we thought warm enough for a laboring man, and we suppose it was really uncomfortable for those who had nothing to do.

For three or four weeks we have had no very considerable rains, although there have been one or two slight showers during that time. We have noticed that the grass in many places where the soil is shallow, is drying up, and apparently needs rain very much. Since the shower on Sunday night, the weather has been more cool and comfortable.

SPECIE IN NEW YORK. It seems from statements in some of the New York papers, that a portion of the inhabitants of that metropolis are now "in funds,"—or at any rate, the Banks and Independent treasury are not entirely destitute. In the Sub Treasury there are between one and two millions of dollars. The total amount of specie in the Bank vaults in the city is nine millions six hundred thousand dollars, being a gain in the precious metals, since the last accounts, of \$1,300,000, when the amount in the several Banks was \$8,338,000.

The numerous arrivals of specie at New York, from California and other quarters, (according to the Journal of Commerce), as well as the favorable rates of foreign exchange, have swollen the amount of coin in the Banks to a very large amount.

THE CASE IN MONMOUTH. The Locomotive Engine ran over the track from Lewiston to Monmouth Centre on Monday the 25th instant. There was quite a reinforcement among the people, who turned out in a mass to see the "critter." Cannon were fired, and huzzas, long and loud, made the welkin ring again; but it was given in by all the "old boys" to see the engine run over the whole of them, and there is now and then a screech in Monmouth yet.

Maj. General Brooks, at New Orleans has assumed the command of the western division of the army, in place of the late Gen. Gaines.

## Gathered News Fragments, &amp;c.

Wonderful Escape. A little girl, five years of age at South Reading, Mass., fell into a well, feet downward, a distance of twenty-one feet. Measures were taken to get the child out of her uncomfortable situation. Before this was effected, the little girl perceived her mother at the mouth of the well, exhibiting signs of distress, when she cried out, "don't cry, mother, I shall come up all right." Soon afterwards she was safe on terra firma, and was apparently uninjured, with the exception of a few slight scratches.

Small Pox. The Hallowell Cultivator, of June 23d, says: there are two cases of genuine small pox and three of the mild form, (varioid), in this town. The disease broke out some weeks ago in an Irish family, and two children died before it was made known or any effective medical treatment could be provided. No other deaths have occurred from the disease. The town authorities have adopted proper precautions, the sick have been removed from the village and are doing well, and there need be no alarm by our friends in the country. No alarm exists here, and with suitable care the disease will probably disappear altogether in a week or two.

Ship Wreck. The ship St. Lawrence, 65 days from Liverpool for New York, put into Newport, R. I., on Tuesday, on account of the extent of sickness on board, having lost 30 out of 170 passengers. The ship was under the command of a physician and supplies, and was to proceed once to New York.

Ten Lives Lost. During a recent terrible hurricane on the Mississippi river, the wind struck the steamboat Memphis, bound to Cincinnati, and she was blown overboard, and the harbor ranges of berths nearly back to the land, also—destroying the clerk's office and the chimneys. The ship was blown overboard, and six of whom were saved.

Mr. Seavey F. Bellows, the well known rail road contractor, died about 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, at his residence in Windsor, Vt. His age was 38 years.

Sword Presented. The ceremony of presenting the sword, voted by the Legislature of New Hampshire to General Pierce, for his services in the Mexican war, took place in the State House in Concord, on Thursday afternoon. A large number of persons were present.

Punishment Commuted. Gov. Fish, of New York, has commuted the sentence of the colored man, Jones, who was to have been executed on the 22d inst., to imprisonment for life. His offence was arson.

Wood, who was sentenced to be hung, has received a respite from Gov. Fish to the 10th of July.

Speed. At a trotting match in Cambridge, between three horses, the best time made in four hours, was a mile in 2 minutes and 36 seconds; the others being made in two minutes 314 seconds; 2 minutes 27 seconds; 2 minutes 29 seconds.

The death of Mrs. Ann Maria Pinkney is announced in the Baltimore papers. This venerable lady was sister to the late veteran Commodore Rodgers, and relict of the Hon. William Pinkney, one of the most distinguished statesmen of our country.

Appointments. Thomas Debois, Attorney General of Maine; Cyrus Bishop, Esq., Postmaster of Winthrop; Dr. Jason Langdon, Postmaster of Kennebecport.

The Mail from California, which reached New York on Wednesday last week, amounted to about four thousand letters, nearly one-third of which were for that city, and very many of them contained gold dust or scales, sent probably, as specimens of the genuine article—the hope of getting which has nearly set the world crazy, at least the transatlantic world. Many of the letters weighed from six to fourteen ounces.

The Hon. Daniel M. Barringer, of North Carolina, has been appointed Minister to Spain, in lieu of Wm. A. Graham, who declines the appointment—the late incumbent, Romulus M. Saunders, having resigned.

Mr. McKay, the engineer, who was so severely injured by the collision on the Worcester Railroad, on Tuesday afternoon, has died of his wounds.

The bill, changing the punishment of Letitia S. Blaisdell from death to imprisonment for life, has passed the Legislature of New Hampshire.

Coal in Springfield, Mass. The Springfield Republican announces that a coal mine has been found on the premises of Edmund Palmer, Esq., of that place. The coal is said to be of fine quality.

The citizens of Sandusky have voted to tax themselves to the amount of \$4000 for the improvement of the harbor.

The Merrimack River, according to the Havre Herald, turns more machinery than any other river in the world.

The Railroad. A meeting of the stockholders of the Kennebec and Portland Railroad was held at the Kennebec Hotel on Monday, the 26th inst. A good number of the stockholders and friends of the road were present, and a fine spirit prevailed. Energetic speeches were made, and the word was, enthusiastic and resolute, the whole road was to be finished and put in operation with all possible dispatch.

The vote in February creating new 50 per cent stock was rescinded, and 4000 shares of stock at par were made, amounting to \$400,000, upon an interest of ten per cent, per annum is guaranteed. One eighth of the stock, \$500,000, was taken up on the spot, and there will be no difficulty in disposing of the remainder, and the word was, enthusiastic and resolute, the whole road was to be finished and put in operation with all possible dispatch.

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## From the Gold Region.

CALIFORNIA NEWS. The New Orleans papers give full particulars of the news brought by the Crescent City. We glean a few items which may be of interest to our readers.

San Francisco is crowded with emigrants, vast numbers of whom are continually pouring into the place. Accommodations of any kind are scarcely to be obtained. The meanest hut or shack, such as here would be considered unwholesome, is almost equally scarce. The contrast kind of food must be used, as no other can be provided. No person stays any longer in San Francisco than he can help, but all who are lucky enough to escape transportation immediately take their departure for the mining districts.

The marvelous stories respecting the abundance of gold are still continued. The limits of the region in which the precious metal is so abundant are almost daily being discovered as low down the coast as Santa Barbara, near the line of Lower California.

So strong is attraction to the mines that there are at San Francisco upwards of fifty vessels of different nations and by their crews. The U. S. sloop-of-war Warren arrived on the 20th of April, and within twenty-four hours fifteen men deserted and took their way to the mines. About 30,000 Mexicans were on route for California, in well organized parties. Trouble was anticipated in the State of Smith attempted to prevent their digging for gold. So far his proclamation had been utterly disregarded.

There are in California men of all trades and professions, but physicians are most numerous. Mechanics are almost daily being discovered as low down the coast as Santa Barbara, near the line of Lower California. So strong is attraction to the mines that there are at San Francisco upwards of fifty vessels of different nations and by their crews. The U. S. sloop-of-war Warren arrived on the 20th of April, and within twenty-four hours fifteen men deserted and took their way to the mines.

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## Land Agent's Report.

The Land Agent's Report gives the particulars of the survey of land owned by Maine and Massachusetts, undivided and heretofore unsurveyed, lying west of the seventh range line and north of the tier of townships number eight. The result is, that the value of these lands consists entirely in timber, and that generations to come will not furnish a demand for it for any purpose. The details of the expenditures on roads are also given. The payments into the Treasury have amounted to the sum of eighty-four thousand two hundred fifty five dollars and sixty-nine cents.

Of the lands belonging to this State in severalty, there have been sold and conveyed, thirty-nine thousand five hundred eighty-nine and 46-100 acres, for the sum of fourteen thousand four hundred and eleven dollars and twenty-four cents.

Fourteen hundred eighty-eight and 97-100 acres of land which had become forfeited to the State for the non-performance of the condition of previous sales, have been sold for the sum of six hundred forty-five dollars and thirty-seven cents.

The agents of Maine and Massachusetts have sold out of the lands owned by said States in common, one hundred and twenty thousand four hundred and ninety acres, for the sum of one hundred twenty thousand four hundred and ninety dollars and sixty-eight cents, one moiety whereof, viz: the sum of sixty-three thousand three hundred ninety-five dollars and thirty-four cents, is receivable by the State.

The following extract from the Report may be of some general interest: [Portland Advertiser.] It may not be deemed inappropriate in this report to glance at the condition and prospect of our settling lands. There is in the valley of the Kennebec, and adjacent to the sea, a tract of land which is admirably adapted to the purposes of agriculture, all the testimony concurring in showing, and it has for a long time been a cherished object of the legislature of the State, however constituted, to acquire and enclose the same, and settle upon these lands and in no case have they been looked to as a source of revenue to the treasury.

For this end large sums of money have been expended in opening roads into the country, and in the purchase of land, and in the sale of the same. The land was changed among other things, in the terms and kind of payment; but our fourth part of the consideration was required to be paid in money, and for this a note was taken payable in four years and interest, and the land was sold in parcels in which the land sold was situated. In addition to this, settling duties were required which of course injured entirely to the benefit of the purchaser. Conditions were made in relation to the purchase, to be void upon the non-fulfillment of the conditions. At the same time encouragement was given to the enterprising to erect mills by donating twenty lots to persons who should erect saw and grist mills and settle on the lots, and the same were excited that these measures would be sufficient to induce the tide of immigration to the northeast part of the state, and for a time seemed to be the result; and it was confidently believed that the tide of immigration would be long to be converted into fruitful fields and to become dotted with prosperous and populous towns.

From the year 1839 to 1842, under the impulse given by these several enactments, about sixty thousand acres of settling land equal to three townships, were conveyed, subject to the conditions of the settling law; but although very extensive sales were made during this time, the conditions failed to be complied with. Notes given for the purchase were not paid, nor were the settling duties performed. In 1842 the Land Agent was directed by law, to advertise all such tracts, and a year's redemption was granted from the time of advertising; this was complied with, and of the sixty thousand acres first sold, less than 17,000 had been settled for. The law directing the mill lots to be repealed at the same time and the cash payment was required to be made in advance; and in lieu of a deed the purchaser received a certificate entitling him to a deed upon the performance of settling duties and the payment of the cash payment. The truth is, that the State does not receive in cash more beyond the cost of surveying the townships into lots; the labor done upon the highways is but the labor the settlers would have to perform for themselves if they did not agree with the State to do it.

Notwithstanding these terms, liberal as they certainly are, the call for settling lands has diminished yearly from 1842 to the present time—and in the past year there had issued from this office but two certificates, each for a lot of one hundred and sixty acres. The truth is, that the situation of these lands so far to the north, their distance from market towns, the injury of the wheat crop by the weevil, the rot of the potatoe, all conspire to retard very seriously the progress of the settlement. It is to be hoped that the two last will prove but temporary impediments, and that those crops may hereafter reward the husbandman with their former abundance. Grass and clover grow very abundantly in that region, and are well adapted to the raising of stock. The legislature will probably think that the terms of payment are sufficiently liberal, but it is far better for the State to give still more than to have the attempt to settle this portion of it prove a failure and a loss to the State.

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